

April 20, 2020

St. Louis County Department of Public Health COVID-19 Update

Guidance for Critical Infrastructure Employees

To ensure continuity of operations of essential functions, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) advises that critical infrastructure employees may be permitted to continue work following potential exposure to COVID-19, provided they remain asymptomatic and additional precautions are implemented to protect them and the community. Guidance for critical infrastructure employers and employees is attached.

Additional guidance includes:

- Employers should increase the frequency of cleaning commonly touched surfaces.
- Employers should work with facility maintenance staff to increase air exchanges in room.
- Employees should not share headsets or other objects that are near mouth or nose.
- Employees and employers should consider pilot testing the use of face masks to ensure they do not interfere with work assignments.
- Employees should physically distance when they take breaks together. Stagger breaks and don't congregate in the break room, and don't share food or utensils.

Masks

St. Louis County Department of Public Health is asking everyone to remain diligent in continuing to wear masks while in public. This simple act helps to keep essential employees, like health care workers, grocery workers, custodians, transportation professionals, and first responders, safe and healthy.

This can be accomplished by wearing cloth masks. This helps preserve the sought after N-95 masks for the healthcare workers and first responders who must work in direct contact with those confirmed to have COVID-19. The CDC notes that homemade masks are not considered PPE, as their capability to protect health care professionals is unknown, but this option is a better option than no option. The CDC has directions for making two types of cloth masks, one that does not require sewing and one that does. Both types can be made out of items found in your home. For more information visit: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html.

Contact Information

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services hotline can be reached at (877)435-8411.

St. Louis County has created a website dedicated to the dissemination of information relating to COVID-19, www.stlcorona.com. Please visit that website or those belonging to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) or the World Health Organization (WHO) for the most current and reputable information.



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